Docket No.: 2003P15803

CERTIFICATION

I, the below named translator, hereby declare that: my name and post office address are as stated below; that I am knowledgeable in the English and German languages, and that I believe that the attached text is a true and complete translation of PCT/EP2004/052481, filed with the European Patent Office on October8, 2004.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Description

Coupling structure for cylindrical resonators

The present invention relates to a filter element suitable for filtering electromagnetic waves, in particular a bandpass filter or band-stop filter, implemented also as a reflection filter or suchlike, containing a dielectric, cylindrical resonator and one or more lines which supply or, as the case may be draw off electromagnetic waves to/from the dielectric resonator, with said lines terminating in a suitable contacting structure. The present invention relates also to an oscillator constructed using a filter element of said type.

Commercially available resonators, which is to say oscillating systems whose individual elements are tuned to a required (natural) frequency so that the resonator will oscillate at that frequency when excited, have many uses in both low-frequency and high-frequency technology. Depending on their physical design, material, and shape they are suitable, for example, as a very simple (narrowband) filter, as a frequency-determining element of an oscillator, for measuring material characteristics in the HF field, or as a short-term electromagnetic-energy storage (employed in particle accelerators).

Microstrip-line resonators, cavity resonators, or what are termed dielectric resonators embodied, that is to say, for the most part from a ceramic material are employed in the area of high-frequency technology depending on the specific application. The last-mentioned resonators are frequently used having a cylindrical shape as electrical or, as the case may be, electromagnetic filters and hence also as filters for generating oscillations in resonator circuits. The therein achievable

characteristics of filters of said type and hence also of the oscillators produced using them (for example their power levels and noise characteristics) are, however, crucially dependent on the coupling of the dielectric resonator to the supply lines or, as the case may be, draw lines.

Cylindrical dielectric resonators are presently mounted on a printed-circuit board predominantly with one of their flatly embodied end faces spaced at a certain distance from the top side thereof. Located on said top side of the printed-circuit board are one or more lines which supply or, as the case may be, draw off electromagnetic waves to/from the dielectric resonator. A typical structural design often used in products such as, for instance, local oscillators and filters for radar systems, satellite receivers, and wireless distribution services for digital television such as local multipoint distribution services (LMDS) and suchlike is outlined in Fig. 8.

The structural design shown in Fig. 8 can lead to serious problems in the production of oscillators in the presence of increasing operating frequencies in particular in what is termed the K band, which is to say in the microwave range of 18-26.5 GHz. The energy coupled over from the first line into the second line is here in most cases not sufficient to enable oscillator circuits to start oscillating. That is why only oscillators having operating frequencies below 18 GHz are produced in most practical applications having ceramic resonators of said kind.

The object of the invention is to provide a resonator circuit for a filter element for filtering electromagnetic waves which element avoids the disadvantages cited at the beginning. The aim in this regard is to disclose improved coupling of the

line(s) to cylindrical, dielectric resonators, in particular for oscillators, preferably for operating frequencies above 18 GHz.

Said object is achieved by means of a filter element for filtering electromagnetic waves which element has the features according to Claim 1 and by means of an oscillator having the features according to Claim 14. Advantageous embodiments and developments that can be employed either alone or in mutual combination are the subject of the dependent Claims.

The invention builds on filter elements of the cited class for filtering electromagnetic waves which elements contain a dielectric, cylindrical resonator and one or more lines terminating in a contacting structure and supplying or, as the case may be drawing off electromagnetic waves to/from the dielectric resonator initially in that said resonator is located variably spaced from the lines, with spacings being conceivable in either the negative or, alternatively, the positive longitudinal direction (z-axis) of the resonator.

In the first-cited case, which is to say when the spacing is in the resonator's negative longitudinal direction, the lines together with their contacting structure preferably form part of a printed-circuit board that supports the resonator, with a recess in which the resonator is located by means of a suitable securing means being inventively provided in said printed-circuit board.

In the case cited as an alternative, which is to say when the spacing is in the resonator's positive longitudinal direction, located in the contacting structure's close proximity is any object or a device, for example a retention area, a cover, or

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suchlike that holds the resonator in place, with a recess in which the resonator is located by means of a suitable securing means being inventively provided in said retention area or, as the case may be, cover etc.

Owing to the resonator's inventively variably spaced contacting the transmittable signal power is advantageously substantially increased compared to previous structures according to, for example, Fig. 8. Secure excitation and stable operation of an oscillator produced using a filter element of said type can be achieved thereby under practical operating conditions, in particular over a wide temperature range.

A retention area or, as the case may be, cover etc. having a recess holding the resonator in place on the face can, moreover, also be provided in cases in which the resonator is additionally partially "sunk" into a recess on the printed-circuit board, which is to say is located spaced in the negative longitudinal direction from the lines terminating in a contacting structure. A physical design of said type on the one hand facilities assembling of the printed-circuit board and cover etc. and, on the other hand, results advantageously in what are termed ultra-compact units of the kind always of interest to the automobile industry in particular.

The recess in the printed-circuit board or, as the case may be, in the previously mentioned device (surface element, cover, etc.) is preferably dimensioned in such a way as to enable the resonator to be fitted or, as the case may be, mounted in a self-centering manner, for example is embodied at least on the ingress side slightly conically or provided with a folded edge or, as the case may be, chamfer.

An adhesive or silicon or suchlike is preferably used as the means for securing the resonator.

Each line preferably terminates in each case in a separately embodied contacting structure. Two or more lines can alternatively also terminate in a commonly embodied contacting structure.

The contacting structure can preferably be embodied at least in sections as sickle-shaped, as a result of which a certain desired filter characteristic can advantageously be achieved. As mentioned at the beginning, it is crucial for operating filter elements of said type or, as the case may be, oscillators constructed therefrom that sufficient signal power is emitted or transmitted by the line or, as the case may be, lines.

The contacting structure can alternatively preferably be embodied as a 360° annulus or, again as an alternative, as a circular-arc segment having a variable aperture angle less than 360°. In particular in the last-cited case the coupling efficiency between the line or, as the case may be, lines and the resonator can advantageously be accommodated and undesired phase jitter minimized by skillfully selecting the aperture angle α. Contacting structures having an aperture angle α of approximately 160° have, for instance, proved effective when there are two lines, contacting structures having an aperture angle of approximately 110° have proved effective when there are three lines, and contacting structures having an aperture angle of, for instance, approximately 75° have proved effective when there are four lines, with the above angles being only examples of possible embodiments.

In a development of the invention the contacting structure has larger dimensions than the cylindrical resonator. In order to minimize structural size and/or increase coupling efficiency, as an alternative thereto and provided the resonator is located on the retention area or, as the case may be, cover etc., the contacting structure can also have smaller dimensions than the cylindrical resonator.

The resonator is to practical advantage oriented substantially to be centered relative to the contacting structure or, as the case may be, located in the central area thereof, with coarser deviance tolerances advantageously being allowed in the resonator's positioning in the case of contacting according to the present invention than is the case with conventional circuits where relatively slight deviations can result in the resonator circuit's non-serviceability and hence rejection.

The present invention is particularly suitable for dielectric, cylindrical resonators of a filter element having operating frequencies above 18 GHz. Said invention further relates to an oscillator, in particular for radar systems, LMDS distribution services, satellite receivers, and suchlike, containing a previously described filter element for filtering electromagnetic waves. In this way the invention also displays its advantages within the scope of an overall system.

The invention will now be explained in an exemplary manner with reference to the accompanying drawings and the aid of preferred embodiments.

Fig. 1 is a schematic plan view of a first structure of a filter element containing a cylindrical resonator to which is ducted a line at whose end a sickle-shaped

contacting structure is embodied;

Fig. 2 is a schematic plan view of a second structure of a filter element containing a cylindrical resonator to which is ducted a line at whose end a an annular contacting structure is embodied;

Fig. 3 is a schematic plan view of a third structure of a filter element containing a cylindrical resonator to which are ducted two lines at whose ends a separate sickle-shaped contacting structure is in each case embodied;

Fig. 4 is a schematic plan view of a fourth structure of a filter element containing a cylindrical resonator to which are ducted two lines terminating in a common sickle-shaped contacting structure;

Fig. 5 is a schematic side view of the structure of a filter element according to one of preceding Figures 1 to 4 or 8 having a resonator inventively located on a cover and variably spaced from the contacting structure along the positive z-axis;

Fig. 6 is a schematic side view of the structure of an oscillator according to one of preceding Figures 1 to 4 or 8 having a resonator conventionally located on the contacting structure;

Fig. 7 is a schematic side view of the structure of a filter element according to one of preceding Figures 1 to 4 or 8 having a resonator inventively located in a recess in the printed-circuit board and variably

spaced from the contacting structure along the negative z-axis; and

Fig. 8 is a schematic plan view of conventional structure of a filter element containing a cylindrical resonator to which are ducted two supply lines.

In the following description of the preferred embodiments of the present invention the same reference numerals refer to the same or comparable components.

Fig. 1 is a top view of a first structure of a filter element containing a cylindrical, dielectric resonator 1 to which is ducted a supply line 2 at whose end a sickle-shaped contacting structure 4 is embodied. The sickle-shaped contacting structure 4 consists of a circular-arc segment having a variable aperture angle α to which is connected a customary line 2. For the example shown in Fig. 1 the aperture angle α is approximately 160°. The width of the line 2 and of the sickle-shaped contacting structure 4 can be accommodated to the relevant conditions and is to be regarded as being variable. One (see Fig. 4), two (see Fig. 3), or more (not shown) contacting structures 4, 4a, 4b can in particular be attached to the dielectric, ceramic resonator 1. This only requires accommodating the aperture angles α of the individual contacting structures accordingly.

The sickle-shaped contacting structure 4, 4a, 4b can, in particular in the case of the resonator's arrangement shown in Fig. 5 in relation to the contacting structure, also assume dimensions that are smaller than the dimensions of the cylindrical resonator 1. In that case the cylindrical resonator 1 covers the metallic contacting structures 4, 4a, 4b at least

partially.

Fig. 2 is a top view of a second structure of a filter element containing a cylindrical resonator 1 to which is ducted a line 2 at whose end an annular contacting structure 4 is embodied.

Fig. 3 is a top view of a third structure of a filter element containing a cylindrical resonator 1 to which are ducted two lines 2, 3 at whose ends a separate sickle-shaped contacting structure 4a, 4b is in each case embodied, with the two contacting structures 4a, 4b being mutually electrically isolated. Contacting structures of said type are suitable particularly in the case of feedback circuits for producing oscillators: The cylindrical resonator 1 is employed in said circuits as a narrowband bandpass filter which, for example, in a defined mode is only permeable for a certain frequency, which is why in this connection the term multi-mode bandpass filter is also used, because, for example, the basic mode or higher-order modes can be used. The resonator 1 is for this purpose, as shown in Fig. 3, contacted with two lines 2, 3. It is crucial for the oscillator's operation that sufficient signal power is emitted or transmitted by the first line 2 to the second line 3. This is ensured by the sickle-shaped contacting structures 4a, 4b.

Fig. 4 is a top view of a fourth structure of a filter element containing a cylindrical resonator 1 to which are ducted two lines 2, 3 terminating in a common sickle-shaped contacting structure 4. Structures of said type in which the supply lines 2, 3 share a sickle-shaped contacting structure 4, 4a, 4b are suitable particularly as band-stop filters.

Fig. 5 is a side view of the structure of a filter element ac-

cording to one of preceding Figures 1 to 4 or 8 having a resonator 1 inventively located on, for example, a cover 5 and variably spaced from the contacting structure contacting structure 4, 4a, 4b in the positive direction of the z-axis.

Fig. 6 is a side view of the structure of a filter element according to one of preceding Figures 1 to 4 or 8 having a resonator 1 conventionally located on, in particular pasted onto the contacting structure 4, 4a, 4b.

Finally, Fig. 7 is a side view of the structure of a filter element according to one of preceding Figures 1 to 4 or 8 having a resonator 1 inventively located in a recess 8 in the printed-circuit board 6 and variably spaced from the contacting structure 4, 4a, 4b in the negative direction of the z-axis.

This means that the height of the cylindrical ceramic resonator 1 (which, incidentally, is sometimes also referred to as a pill) above the surface of a printed-circuit board 6 does not, according to the invention, have to be defined; it is variable. The electrical or, as the case may be, electromagnetic characteristics of the structure can hence be additionally tuned.

The cylindrical resonator 1 can be mechanically secured with the aid of a suitable securing material, in particular an adhesive 7 or suchlike, to any object 5 that can be, for example, a simple retention area located in close proximity to the surface of the printed-circuit board 6 (see Fig. 5). Said object 5 is advantageously a cover as is required to be embodied above the pill (which is to say in the positive z direction) in virtually all practical instances in the embodiment of os-

cillator circuits or electrical or, as the case may be, electromagnetic filters. Said cover can be embodied from, for example, metal or absorbent materials such as, for example, plastic.

Alternatively - or, where applicable, additionally (not shown) - thereto the cylindrical ceramic resonator 1 can inventively even be located in the negative value range relative to the contacting structure 4, 4a, 4b, in particular - as shown in Fig. 7 - if a recess 8 for the resonator 1 is embodied in the printed-circuit board 6. Particularly advantageous therein are embodiments of recesses 8 allowing a kind of self-centering mounting of the resonator 1 relative to the contacting structure 4, 4a, 4b. It is again mentioned though only as a supplementary remark that in the embodiment of oscillator circuits a cover (not shown) is required to be embodied above the pill (which is to say in the positive z direction) of filter elements of said type.

The invention includes the arrangement of a resonator 1 variably spaced from a contacting structure 4, 4a, 4b containing one, two, or more supply or, as the case may be, draw lines 2, 3. With the present invention the transmitted signal power can be advantageously substantially increased compared to conventional coupling structures (see again the bandpass filter shown in Fig. 8). Secure excitation and stable operation of an oscillator produced using a filter element of said type can be achieved thereby under practical operating conditions (for example over a wide temperature range).

The positioning accuracy of the cylindrical resonator 1 is very low. This allows simple and economical production during which the resonator 1 only has to be pasted into the prefera-

bly self-centering central area of at least one recess 8 surrounded by the contacting structure 4, 4a, 4b.

The present invention has been described using a filter element having a cylindrical, dielectric resonator 1. The invention is not, though, restricted to said type of resonator. In particular any type whatsoever of rotationally symmetric resonator - whether embodied as being solid ("disk-type") or hollow-bodied or, as the case may be, partially hollow-bodied ("cylinder-type") - can be the subject of inventive contacting structures.

The present invention is particularly suitable for use in oscillator circuits having operating frequencies above 18 GHz, such as are typically increasingly used in a motor vehicle's environment systems such as Lane Departure Warning (LDW), Blind Spot Detection (BSD), and Rear View Detection etc.